

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PORT M 01142 250918Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
ACDA-12 IO-13 HA-05 /096 W  
-----045479 252047Z /45

R 250430Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3514  
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT MORESBY 1142

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS, ID, PP  
SUBJECT: MILITARY ACTIVITY ON BORDER

1. SUMMARY: INDONESIAN MILITARY ACTIVITY REPORTEDLY CONTINUING  
IN BORDER AREA AND MAY HAVE BEEN AUGMENTED WITH PATROL BOATS.  
NUMBER OF REFUGEES CROSSING BORDER INTO PNG IN PAST EIGHT  
WEEKS NOW ABOUT 650. PNG NOT FORCING THEM TO RETURN AS IN  
PAST, BUT TREATING THEM AS REFUGEES. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING MEDIA REPORTS OF RECENT INDONESIAN BURNING OF  
PNG VILLAGE OF SEKOTIAU, CHARGE' SPOKE WITH PNG DEFENCE  
FORCE COMMANDER DIRO WHO SAID INDONS PROBABLY DID BURN  
VILLAGE BUT THERE NOTHING BUT CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE. DIRO  
SAID PEOPLE IN AREA MOVE ON WHEN GARDENS EXHAUSTED BUT THEY  
NORMALLY JUST ABANDON HUTS. IN THIS CASE HUTS WERE BURNED,  
HUTS TOO WIDELY SCATTERED TO HAVE ALL BURNED IF ONE  
ACCIDENTALLY CAUGHT FIRE. UNLIKE OTHER OCCASIONS WHERE  
INDONESIAN TROOPS WERE OBSERVED, PNGDF DID NOT SEE  
INDONESIANS AT SEKOTIAU AND CAN ONLY PREUUME INDONESIAN  
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CULPABILITY.

3. MEDIA ALSO REPORTED SIGHTINGS OF UNIDENTIFIED  
"GUNBOATS" IN PNG COASTAL WATERS BETWEEN VANIMO AND  
BORDER. DIRO CONFIRMED REPORT, SAID BOATS BELIEVED TO  
BE INDONESIAN PATROL BOATS BUT COULD NOT FATHOM THEIR  
INTENTIONS.

4. FLOW OF REFUGEES INTO PNG CONTINUES. ALL ACCOUNTS INDICATE THEY NOW NUMBER BETWEEN 640-660. WHILE THIS NOT LARGE IN ABSOLUTE NUMBERS, IT MASSIVE IN TERMS OF THAT AREA. GPNG HAS DROPPED FORMER POLICY OF JAILING OR SENDING BACK THOSE "ILLEGALLY ENTERING" PNG AND IS TREATING THEM AS REFUGEES. MEDICAL AUTHORITIES REPORT MANY IN POOR CONDITION BUT ADD THIS PROBABLY RESULT OF HUNGER BETWEEN CROPS. DEFENCE FORCE PERSONNEL BUILDING SHELTERS FOR SOME, MOSTLY FAMILY UNITS, AND MISSIONARIES HELPING AS WELL.

5. IN 30 MINUTE NATIONWIDE RADIO BROADCAST JULY 23, UPNG PROFESSOR DISCUSSED PROBLEM SOMARE GOVERNMENT FACES - WALKING TIGHTROPE BETWEEN NEED TO DEAL CORRECTLY WITH INDONESIA WHILE FACING GREATLY INCREASED PUBLIC SYMPATHY FOR WEST IRIANS. IF ACTIVITY ALONG BORDER DOES NOT EASE UP BEFORE AUGUST SESSION OF PARLIAMENT, SOMARE WILL HAVE THIS VERY EMOTIONAL ISSUE COMPLICATING SESSION ALREADY PROMISING TO BECOME KNOCK-DOWN, DRAG-OUT FIGHT OVER PROPOSED LEADERSHIP CODE.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COMBAT OPERATIONS, BORDER INCIDENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 25 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**SAS ID:** 1894749  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MILITARY ACTIVITY ON BORDER  
**TAGS:** PINS, ID, PP  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014